

**Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
October 13, 2009**

**Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program
2008-09 Annual Report**

The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program report highlights academic enrichment programs developed for African American middle and junior high school students at the eight public universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Created by the General Assembly in 1986 to address the underrepresentation of African American students in postsecondary education, the GMSCPP assists students in preparing for high school and postsecondary education, enabling them to successfully transition to a postsecondary institution to earn a degree. The program builds relationships among middle and junior high schools and public postsecondary education institutions, and enables students to identify and address possible academic challenges before transitioning to high school.

The report looks at indicators of participants' success in the program as they prepare to enter high school. The 2007-08 evaluation revolves around the Council's five questions that organize the Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education (2005-2010); the questions have been modified to reflect student participation in the program. The five questions are:

1. Are more students participating in the GMSCPP—are they preparing for postsecondary education?
2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for GMSCPP participants? Do they understand the costs associated with enrollment and whether it is affordable in the Commonwealth?
3. Do GMSCPP participants complete the program? Do they enroll in Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions, graduate, and earn certificates/degrees?
4. Are GMSCPP participants preparing for life and work in Kentucky?
5. Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting as a result of the GMSCPP?

Participants of the 2008-09 GMSCPP include 1,025 middle and junior high school students: 771 students (75.2 percent) enrolled in the seven university programs, while 254 students (24.8 percent) enrolled in the KCTCS programs.

In comparison, 1,209 students participated in the 2007-08 programs: 959 students (79.3 percent) in the seven university programs, and 250 students (20.7 percent) in the KCTCS programs. In 2006-07, a total of 1,091 students participated in the programs: 862 at the university level and 229 at KCTCS. The number of participants has fluctuated over the past several years. Currently, 79 students are on waiting lists at four institutions (UofL, Big Sandy CTC, Elizabethtown CTC, and Madisonville CC).

In addition to academic preparation, directors also discussed the rising costs of college tuition and a variety of other resources, including loans that could assist students in funding their postsecondary education. Program directors presented information to make participants aware of the value and benefits of postsecondary education.

Many participants have enrolled in colleges, technical schools, and universities throughout Kentucky and other states. The first group of program participants—transitioning from middle to high school and high school to college and completing their undergraduate degree—have not yet been identified since the adoption of the GMSCPP statewide application in 2002. For example, participants that enrolled in college in fall 2002 were expected to graduate in 2008 (using the typical six-year schedule).

The program promotes student access and family and community involvement, and increases awareness of the process for admission and enrollment in Kentucky's postsecondary education system. The eight universities and participating KCTCS institutions are committed to ensuring that African Americans, as well as other ethnic minority students, are prepared to enroll and will be successful in Kentucky's postsecondary education system.

Overall, the GMSCPP has been invaluable in serving African American middle and junior high school students across the state. With increased institutional and state support, more students will become beneficiaries of the statewide program, and Kentucky may see an increase in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans and other minority groups.

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